

### **REMARKS**

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed August 14, 2006 (the "Office Action"). At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-6 and 10-19 were pending in the Application. The Office Action rejects these claims. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

### **Claim Amendments**

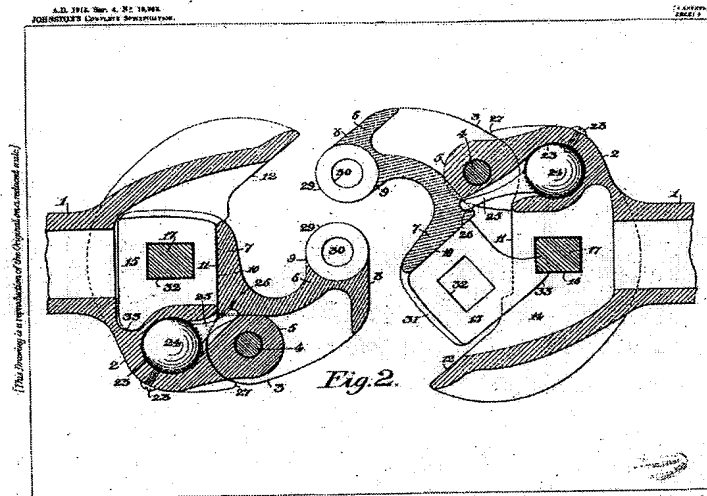
The Office Action suggests amendments to Claims 1, 13 and 15 with respect to "said front face portion." Office Action, page 2. Applicants have amended the claims in the suggested manner.

### **Section 102 Rejections**

The Office Action rejects Claims 1, 10 and 12-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by British reference No. 19,963 issued to Johnston ("*Johnston*"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claim 1 recites "an enhanced bearing surface area which includes a substantially flat portion at the pulling face section disposed substantially in a vertical direction and which is substantially arcuate in a horizontal direction." Claims 13 and 15 recite similar elements. The Office Action suggests that *Johnston* discloses this element. However, *Johnston* does not disclose such an enhanced bearing surface that is substantially arcuate in a horizontal direction. *Johnston* discloses a pivotal coupling hook that includes an outer element or knuckle member 6. *Johnston*, page 4, lines 3-4. The outer element includes an inner face 9 on the axial line of the coupler that is flat "and at right angles to the pull when the hook is closed." *Id.* at page 4, lines 4-7. *Johnston* also states that when the hook is engaged with a corresponding hook of another vehicle, "the pull on the engaged outer elements 6 of the two pivotal hooks is in a direct axial line with the locking pins 17 in the drawhead 2, and the pull is maintained in a central line through the drawhead to the drawbar 1 of the coupler." *Id.* at page 5, lines 18-20. Thus, the portion of the *Johnston* coupler that bears against a corresponding coupler is inner face 9 which is described as flat and illustrated as flat in a horizontal direction in Figure 2 of *Johnston* reproduced below. In addition, as indicated

above, *Johnston* states that the flat inner face 9 is at right angles to the pull and that the pull is in a direct axial line with the locking pins 17.



Thus, as evident from the discussion of the portion of the *Johnston* coupler that might be called a bearing surface, this surface (inner surface 9) is not substantially arcuate in a horizontal direction. It is instead flat in a horizontal direction. Therefore, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 13 and 15 are patentable over the cited art used in the rejections and request that the rejections of these claims be withdrawn.

Claims 10, 12 and 17 each depends from Claim 1; Claim 14 depends from Claim 13; and Claim 16 depends from Claim 15. Claims 1, 13 and 15 are shown above to be allowable. Thus, for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claims 1, 13 and 15, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of Claims 10, 12, 14 and 16-17 be withdrawn.

### **Section 103 Rejections**

The Office Action rejects Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Johnston*. The Office Action rejects Claims 2-6 and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Johnston* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,129,227 issued to Openchowski ("*Openchowski*"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claims 2-6, 11 and 18-19 each depends from Claim 1. Claim 1 is shown above to be allowable. Thus, for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 1, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of Claims 2-6, 11 and 18-19 be withdrawn.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the Examiner is invited to contact Chad C. Walters, Attorney for Applicants, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953-6511.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the required \$120.00 fee in payment of the attached Request for Extension of Time- one month, any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.  
Attorneys for Applicants



Chad C. Walters  
Reg. No. 48,022

Date: December 12, 2006

Correspondence Address:

**Customer Number: 05073**